

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Schwarzer, Franz, House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Walnut Street (formerly 218 E. Front)

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#8 - Hon. Richard H. Ichord

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

071

**3 CLASSIFICATION**
**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Diamond

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2 Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 63090

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Franklin County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Union

STATE

Missouri 63084

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1978  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

state

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 2

2. Christina L. Borgford  
P.O. Box 106  
Washington

May 15, 1976  
314/239-7024  
Missouri 63090

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

\_\_\_EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

\_\_\_FAIR

\_\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_\_RUINS

\_\_\_UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

\_\_\_UNALTERED

☒ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_\_MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franz Schwarzer House, located at 2 Walnut Street along the Missouri River in Washington, Missouri, is one building of two distinct parts and styles: clapboarded cottage and Victorian brick home. The clapboarded section, built before 1868,<sup>1</sup> is a two-story, gable-roofed structure with a one-story, lean-to addition on the southwest. Adjoining the clapboarded section on the northeast is a two-story, hip-roofed brick dwelling of ell-shaped plan, added in 1872.<sup>2</sup> Assymetrical design, pronounced verticality and fanciful details evidenced in an ornate widow's walk and gingerbread porch/balcony lend a distinctive Victorian air of informal elegance to the latter structure, a building otherwise representative of the excellent German brickwork typical of 19th century Washington.

## EXTERIOR

### Frame Section

The clapboarded section, measuring approximately 21' 3" X 23' 9", is framed of oak with brick nogging filling the interstices. Clapboards painted light green mask the framing on the exterior, but the construction is visible on an interior wall separating the kitchen from the original summer kitchen. Basically a two-room, two-story box, the house originally consisted of a kitchen on the first floor and a sleeping area on the second. The lean-to addition was added at a later date, providing space for a summer kitchen.

Entrances occur on the northwestern and southwestern sides; the latter opening is not original. A one-story porch, with chamfered posts supporting a pent roof surmounted by a gablet, shelters the northwest (primary) entrance. Original, double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights remain on both stories; an original fixed window with eighteen lights remains on the first story. The bay window occurring on the northwestern end of the lean-to addition is a twentieth-century modification.

A corrugated metal roof covers the original wood shingles on the gabled roof; standing-seam metal roofs cover the porch and lean-to roofs. The roofs are painted green; wood window trim and the cedar porch posts are painted white. One brick chimney, contained within the fabric, extends through the southeastern side of the gabled roof, servicing the kitchen.

### Brick Section

The 1872 building, measuring approximately 41' 2" X 47' 8", is constructed of red brick laid in common bond thirteen inches thick and rests on a foundation of coursed ashlar blocks. The original standing-seam tin roof, painted green, remains in remarkably good repair. Atop the truncated hip roof of the main wing of the ell is a wrought iron widow's walk ornamented with a grape motif. Ornamental brickwork, consisting of a raised dentate pattern between stringcourses, forms a

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low-relief cornice below the flaring eaves. The same brickwork, typical of nineteenth-century German local construction,<sup>3</sup> trims the upper edge of a three-sided, one-story bay on the northwestern elevation. Directly to the north of the bay is a narrow, semi-detached chimney.

The northeastern facade (originally the primary facade), which overlooks the Missouri River, is accented by a delicate gingerbread porch and balcony. Slender, square posts support a balcony enclosed by a balustrade of lyre-shaped elements. Similar balustrades rim the porch and stair. Delicate brackets and enriched consoles support an entablature which conceals the juncture of porch and balcony. The entablature consists of cornice and frieze band embellished with a dentate band above a row of circular cut-outs. Seven wooden steps lead from the northwest up to the porch, which is raised from the ground by stone blocks. The original main entranceway occurs on the northeast side of the porch. A secondary entrance, now used more frequently, is located on the southwestern end, sheltered by the porch of the clapboarded section. Located on the latter door and still functional is the original, ornate brass pull bell.

Windows of the brick structure are narrow, rectangular double-hung sash, with two-over-two lights (except those of the bay, which have one-over-one lights). They are surmounted by segmental brick arches with radiating voussoirs and have stone lugsills. The original wood shutters, louvered and curved at the top to fit the arched openings, are intact and are being refinished. Four small rectangular windows with bars occur in the foundation level. The window surrounds curve slightly into the brickwork above and are surmounted by segmental brick arches.

Window shutters and northeast porch floor and steps are of wood painted dark green. Window and door trim and remaining elements of the porch are of wood painted white.

**INTERIOR**

The interior of the Schwarzer House retains much of its original character. The layout of rooms is the same but for the addition of a bathroom on each floor of the brick section. The original summer kitchen in the frame section was converted into a garage in the 1920's and subsequently refurbished as a living/dining area. The original woodwork of the brick section is intact, although most of it has been painted. The walls have been repapered; samples of all layers of paper removed have been preserved by the previous owners, the Borgfords.

Entering the clapboarded cottage from the northwest porch, one enters the kitchen. The original brick floor is now covered with vinyl over cement. The beams of the

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ceiling are exposed and painted white. Located in the lean-to addition on the southwest end is the present dining area - originally the summer kitchen. The original brick floor of the summer kitchen is now covered with pine planks over cement. The underlying oak frame and brick nogging is exposed in the wall dividing the kitchen from the dining area. Located on the kitchen side of the same wall is a small wood stove, which provides the only heat for the clapboarded section, utilizing the original brick chimney. Access to the living room of the brick section is obtained from a door on the northeast wall of the kitchen. The living room, lit by large windows overlooking the river, retains its original parquet floor of oak and walnut, which is extremely well preserved. From the living room one enters a narrow hall, which contains the stairway and provides access to the library/parlor and the bath. The floor and woodwork of the parlor (now used as a library) retain their original finish. The trim of the bay window and the door panels are finished with graining that simulates walnut and maple burl and are in excellent condition. A graceful, curving staircase with the original walnut banister and newel post leads upstairs. The balusters of the railing have been painted white.

Three bedrooms and a bath are located on the second floor. All floors in the brick portion, originally grained, are now painted. All rooms open off an irregularly shaped hallway. The door which opens onto the balcony from the hallway is particularly interesting. It is divided horizontally into two sections, and each section is further divided vertically. Thus the top and/or bottom sections could be opened independently, as windows, or the entire unit could function as a door. The single room of the frame section is reached by five steps down from the hall. Random-width, unfinished pine planks cover the floor. A door in the hallway gives access to a steep flight of steps leading to attic storage. From the attic, a few steps lead to the approximately 4' X 6' widow's walk on the roof. The opening leading to the roof, originally covered with a hatch door, is presently covered with a heavy sheet of plexiglas.

The brick section of the Schwarzer House has a full basement which is used for storage, laundry and furnace space.

**CONDITION**

The condition of the Schwarzer House is very good. Attention to repair and restoration by the previous owners, Robert and Christina Borgford, and the present owners, Edmund and Karen Diamond, has greatly improved the exterior and interior appearance and condition. Proximity to the railroad tracks which run along the river does not seem to have affected the stability of the structure. Certain repairs are

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needed, such as replacement of gutters and repair or replacement of the metal roof of the clapboarded section. The present owners are aware of the repairs needed and plan to attend to them.

SITE

The Franz Schwarzer House, overlooking the Missouri River from its location at 2 Walnut Street, was originally part of a large park including the Schwarzer zither factory, relic house, greenhouse, carriage house and other outbuildings as well as extensive gardens which covered all of Block 19 and part of Block 20 of the original town of Washington.<sup>4</sup> The present property covers approximately 2 1/3 lots of the northeast end of Block 19. The original frame carriage house remains on the extreme southwest boundary of the property. A gravel drive extends from Walnut Street to the center of the property. A brick patio and walk have been created to approximate the original brickwork; part of the original brick walk does remain at the northeast and southeast of the house. An original cast iron fountain is in use on the southwest patio. The property is well landscaped with shrubs and evergreen and flowering trees. Unfortunately, the present view of the Missouri River is marred by the presence of a large sand-dredging operation located across the railroad tracks. For some time the city of Washington and the Army Corps of Engineers have planned to create a riverfront park, which would involve the removal of the unsightly sand plant. A completion date of June, 1979 was established;<sup>5</sup> however there is no evidence of any progress toward that goal. It is hoped that the placement of the Franz Schwarzer House on the National Register of Historic Places would revive community interest in the historic value and beauty of the riverfront area and provide a catalyst for the eventual creation of the planned park.

FOOTNOTES

1. Thomas M. Davis and Franz R. Beinke, "Franz Schwarzer, Missouri Zither Maker," Missouri Historical Review, LX (October, 1965), 11. Earliest evidence of the building is its existence on the property leased by Schwarzer in 1868.
2. Ibid.
3. Charles van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1977), p. 227.

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4. Davis and Beinke, "Franz Schwarzer," 27-28.
5. Washington Missourian, May 5, 1976, p. 1.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

pre-1868; 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franz Schwarzer House, Washington, Missouri, is primarily significant as the home of the world-reknowned zither craftsman, Franz Schwarzer (1828-1904). Schwarzer's uncompromising excellence in workmanship, innovative techniques in construction, and unparalleled artistry in design brought him international, as well as local acclaim in the field of music. His zither factory was an important part of Washington's post-Civil War industry and economy, and he was himself a respected community leader and a knowledgeable, amateur botanist. The story of Austrian-born Schwarzer well exemplifies the extensive contributions made by old world cultures to Missouri's heritage.

Architecturally, the Schwarzer House is also of great interest. The brick addition of 1872 represents a rare, local modification of Victorian architectural elements. The pronounced verticality, asymmetrical design and fanciful, ornate details seen in the widow's walk capping the roof and in the gingerbread porch enlivening the north-eastern facade lend a Victorian quality to the structure, while the segmental arched window openings and the brick denticulated cornice are hallmarks of local German construction.

### FRANZ SCHWARZER

Franz Schwarzer was born on October 8, 1828, in Olmutz, Austria. His father Anton, a building contractor and furniture maker, provided for Franz's education at the Olmutz Gymnasium and the Vienna Polytechnic Institute. Franz studied architecture, wood carving and ornamentation during his three years in Vienna, and following his graduation in 1846, he returned to apprentice at his father's shop in Olmutz. Documentation of these early years is scarce, but it is thought that he became interested in the zither at this time. He received instruction in playing the zither from Ludwig Ritter von Dittrich, a well-known Austrian composer, and encouragement in his efforts at improved zither construction from Carl J.F. Umlant, another renowned Austrian composer.

As a result of the socio-economic turbulence that beset Austria in the years between 1840 and 1850, employment for even a skilled craftsman became scarce, and by 1850, Franz was going from town to town in search of employment under a master craftsman. Letters written in the early 1850's indicate that he did find work, although for a meager wage. Eventually he may have returned to work in Olmutz, for in 1859 he married Josephine Pettera from nearby Brunn. A member of a prominent family of



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theatrical people, Josephine was herself an accomplished actress admired by Kaiser Frederick William, IV.<sup>2</sup>

In 1864 the Schwarzers emigrated to America, settling near Holstein in Warren County, Missouri. The exact reasons for their emigration are unknown, but the future of a craftsman in Austria must have been dim after the fundamental changes which had occurred in the aftermath of the general social, political and economic upheaval. Schwarzer may have been inspired by the letters of Gottfried Duden, a German who had sojourned for over two years in Warren County, Missouri. Published and distributed widely, these letters lured many German-speaking peoples to Missouri.<sup>3</sup>

Upon arrival in New York in 1864, the Schwarzers had purchased land in Warren County, near the very area where Duden had lived. Their property, purchased sight-unseen from a New York land firm, was a modest farm with a simple log structure, hardly the idyllic existence pictured by Duden. Although albeit very unhappy with their situation there, the Schwarzers were reluctant to admit defeat and return to their homeland. Instead they remained in Warren County for approximately two years, until the fall of 1866 or the spring of 1867, when they were able to move to Franklin County, to the town of Washington. A thriving community advantageously located on the Missouri River and the Missouri Pacific Railroad line, Washington was just entering an age of post-war prosperity. Burgeoning industry and commerce would soon offer Schwarzer the opportunity of success.<sup>4</sup>

Once settled in Washington, Franz earned his living by furniture making and wood-working, making only an occasional zither for friends. He apparently carved the original altar for the St. Francis Borgia Church, which was completed in 1868.<sup>5</sup> Schwarzer immediately involved himself in community affairs. He was instrumental in the post-war revival of the Washington volunteer fire department, eventually being named Chief,<sup>6</sup> and was active in local German societies, such as the Turnverein and the Leiderkranz. He reputedly helped to found the Washington chapter of the Leiderkranz,<sup>7</sup> and both he and Josephine participated in the dramatic endeavors of the Turnverein.<sup>8</sup>

Although Schwarzer's occupation in the early years in Missouri was carving wood and making furniture, he was making occasional zithers. One of these earlier models, dating to approximately 1866-67, is in the collection of the Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City, Missouri. A very simply-designed and constructed instrument, it utilizes piano pegs rather than actual zither pegs for tuning. All of the materials used in its construction could have been obtained easily in Washington.<sup>9</sup>

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By winter of 1869 Schwarzer was probably devoting full time to zither making, and by 1870 he was producing a much fancier model. In contrast to the instrument mentioned earlier, this model was very elegant, constructed of rosewood with German silver frets, standard zither tuning pegs, and mother-of-pearl inlay. Such materials and components, rare in America, must have been obtained from European suppliers. Schwarzer's selection of choice materials and insistence on standard zither parts undoubtedly reflect an increasing demand for his product, as well as a conscious desire to create a unique product.<sup>10</sup>

When he first arrived in Washington, Schwarzer had leased lots 111 and 112 of Block 19 from Sophie Harrison, reserving the option to purchase the land at a later time. Located on that property were a small frame residence (the present clapboarded cottage described in Item 7) and a smokehouse. Schwarzer's zither operation must have become quite successful, for in 1872 he was able to purchase lot 111 and sixteen feet of lot 112. He subsequently built his first factory and added the Victorian brick "addition" to the original frame structure on the property.<sup>11</sup>

During these years Schwarzer must have been preparing for the International Exhibition in Vienna, for the three zithers he did submit in 1873 were outstanding enough to win the coveted gold medal of progress, the highest award of the exhibition. That the award was given to an American in Vienna, the "zither capitol of the world", made the event quite a coup. Schwarzer's intense pride over this recognition was evident in his self-styled title, "The King of the Zither Manufacturers". Obviously an astute businessman, he was quick to seize the opportunity of using this recognition widely in his advertising. From that time on, every Schwarzer zither produced bore an interior sticker picturing both sides of the gold medal.<sup>12</sup>

Following his overwhelming success at the Vienna Exhibition, Schwarzer increased his production of zithers. His business expanded considerably, until in 1886 he was required to build a larger factory. Additional journeymen were hired to keep pace with the growing demand for Schwarzer zithers.<sup>13</sup> The 1890's were the peak years of production,<sup>14</sup> with over 3,000 instruments produced between 1890 and 1895.<sup>15</sup> During the periods of greatest production, as many as twenty-five workmen were employed, eight of whom were skilled craftsmen.<sup>16</sup>

The total number of zithers and other instruments produced in the Schwarzer factory is unknown. Not until the summer of 1885 did he begin to assign serial numbers to each instrument and keep precise records of sales. However, since he began his numbering at 2,000, it is evident that he thought he had produced a fair number of zithers in the period before 1885.<sup>17</sup> Over 6,000 instruments (including mandolins,

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guitars, etc.) were produced in the years between 1885 and 1904, and nearly as many were produced in the years after Schwarzer's death,<sup>18</sup> until the closing of the factory in the early 1950's.

Details of the exact profit made by Schwarzer in his business are not available, but it is evident that he was quite successful. He was eventually able to purchase all eight lots comprising Block 19 and three lots of Block 20. His original workshop was turned into a small museum for the display of Indian artefacts, and a greenhouse was built on the north side of his factory. He engaged in extensive landscaping of his property, employing one or two gardeners full time. The south half of Block 19 was transformed into a formal garden replete with gravel paths, benches and cultivated flowers and shrubs. An ornate cast iron fountain was constructed near the corner of Main and Locust.<sup>19</sup> An avid naturalist,<sup>20</sup> he adorned the gardens with exotic tropical plants and rare animals, such as a pair of crocodiles.<sup>21</sup> He cultivated a grove of banana trees which were planted outdoors every spring and sheltered in the greenhouse during inclement months. In addition, he developed a hardy variety of boxwood. This boxwood, which flourishes in the severest winter, can still be found on the Schwarzer property and around the Washington Post Office.<sup>22</sup>

Franz Schwarzer died on February 21, 1904. His death reflected the symbolic end of an era, for the post-war "golden age" of Washington was waning and the rich tradition of Germanic craftsmanship and culture was being displaced by mass-production and a general aversion to things German. Josephine Schwarzer kept the factory open until her death in 1912. Herman Grohe continued to operate the factory until the 1920's. After his death business greatly declined, and the factory was eventually demolished in the early 1950's.<sup>23</sup>

SCHWARZER ZITHERS

Franz Schwarzer's contributions to the art and craft of the zither fall into three principal categories: experimentation with construction involving solutions to the problem of structural reinforcement, invention of new zither types, and unusual artistry in design.<sup>24</sup>

A basic problem in the construction of a zither is the conflict between interior sounding space necessary for proper tone quality and the interior braces needed for support. Schwarzer developed a unique type of brace which provided maximum support and protection against buckling or warping of the body, while allowing optimum sounding room for reverberation of tones. The possibility of strong support without additional weight, bulk or corresponding loss in tone quality

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enabled the addition of extra strings to the instrument, thus increasing tonal range.<sup>25</sup>

In addition to experimentation with structural problems, Schwarzer invented two new types of zither and a metal string holder. In a model he named the harp zither or Arion-harp zither, he extended and curved the top and introduced a column or pillar to connect that extension with the body. The column provided strong support without additional bulk or unreasonable weight, while the curving end accommodated the longer contra-bass strings. These inventions, minor though they may seem, were a revolutionary answer to increased stress and bulk resulting from the addition of extra strings to the instrument. Another invention, the table zither, was designed for the convenience of the performing zitherist. Because of a tendency to slip in the hands of the player, German zithers were ordinarily used on tables. Special ivory balls imbedded with sharp steel pins served as legs to anchor the zither to the table. The tables required for such use were specially made, incorporating a spruce sounding board underneath and a sounding hole in the top surface. Schwarzer's invention, patented August 28, 1893, combined zither and table in one easily transportable unit. The zither was built right into the table top, and the legs folded neatly for ease of carrying.<sup>26</sup> In addition to these two new types of zither and his patented metal string holder, Schwarzer created many unusual and interesting variations on standard types.

Undoubtedly the most unique feature of a Schwarzer instrument was the incredible artistry involved in its design and creation. A Schwarzer instrument was not merely a commercial product or a fine-quality instrument, but a handcrafted and embellished work of art. The finest materials were used in construction, including rosewood, ebony, ivory, mother-of-pearl and silver. Each step in the process of making a zither was done by hand - cutting, sanding, shellacking, assembling, burnishing. Intricate inlay work, known as purfling, was a distinguishing feature of a Schwarzer instrument. Some of the more elaborate models took up to a year to complete, because of the eye strain involved in such intricate work. The most exotic materials and the most detailed inlay were reserved for the more expensive models, but even the least expensive instruments were done with equal care and craftsmanship. Prices ranged from \$19.00 for a popular concert zither to \$1,000.00 for an Arion-Harp zither with column "executed in ivory by a world-famed Bavarian sculptor" and inlay of "gold, silver, criede [sic], white, green and variegated mother-of-pearl."<sup>27</sup>

A Schwarzer instrument was the ultimate in skillful construction and artistic design. The specially designed interior braces guaranteed that the instrument would withstand the rigors of climate and the stress of playing while providing

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consistently mellow tone quality. The exceptionally lovely, artistic craftsmanship of each piece guaranteed that a Schwarzer instrument would be cherished as a highly personal instrument. According to one story, Lon V. Stephens, a former Governor of Missouri, desired to purchase a zither. Believing that Germany was the only source for a zither of exceptional quality, he sent an order to a German supplier. Upon receiving his zither, he was surprised to read on the label inside the sounding box "made in Washington, Missouri."<sup>28</sup> Schwarzer zithers remain highly prized today by collectors and zitherists alike.

THE SCHWARZER EXHIBIT IN THE MISSOURI STATE MUSEUM

An interesting exhibition of Schwarzer zithers has been set up at the Missouri State Museum in the east wing of the main floor of the Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri. Items salvaged from the Schwarzer factory before its demolition, including the original foot-powered lathe, tools, templates, craftsman's work bench and other items are displayed, along with many instruments and other Schwarzer memorabilia. Of particular interest among the instruments are Schwarzer's personal zither, with delicate floral inlay done by Josephine; a small, delicately detailed harp-zither called the Lady-Zither; an exceptionally fancy Arion-Harp zither with ebony column inlaid with ivory and elaborate purfling in mother-of-pearl; a mandolin; a bow zither; a very early zither with piano pegs; and his patented table zither. In addition to the visual display, visitors may hear a recording of zither music played by Adolph Kukler on original Schwarzer instruments.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Accordingly, the Franz Schwarzer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture", "Fine Arts and Humanities", "Technology", and "Society".

FOOTNOTES

1. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. (Chicago, Ill.: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888), p. 318; Thomas M. Davis and Franz R. Beinke, "Franz Schwarzer, Missouri Zither Maker," Missouri Historical Review, LX (October, 1965), 3-4.
2. Davis and Beinke, "Franz Schwarzer," 4-5.
3. Ibid., 6-8.

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SCHWARZER, FRANZ, HOUSE

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4. Ibid., 8-9.
5. Ibid., 11.
6. Eleanor B. McClure, Early History of Washington, Missouri (Washington, Mo.: The Washington Missourian, 1939), p. 35.
7. Davis and Beinke, Franz Schwarzer, 11.
8. Geschichte des Washington Turnevereins und der dramatische Sektion (Washington, Missouri: Pearl Print Co., 1900), pp. 40-41.
9. Davis and Beinke, Franz Schwarzer, 11-12.
10. Ibid., 12.
11. Ibid., 11-12.
12. Ibid., 12-13.
13. Ibid., 13-14.
14. Ibid., 26.
15. Ibid., 15.
16. Ibid., 25-26.
17. Ibid., 13
18. Ibid., 25.
19. Ibid., 27-28.
20. Schwarzer also formed a group of spelunkers, the Washington Cave Club. See "Views From the Past, The Photo Album of Franz Schwarzer," Missouri Historical Review, LXX (April, 1976), 316-318.
21. The crocodiles are evident in photographs in the collection of Mrs. Marie Kesselring, Pond, Missouri.

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22. Davis and Beinke, 28. Of great interest to botanists, this boxwood has been documented by the Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri.
23. Ibid., 28-30.
24. Ibid., 19.
25. Ibid., 19-20.
26. Ibid., 20-22.
27. Ibid., 22-24.
28. "Zithers and Pipes", Missouriana, March, 1939, p. 27.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Beinke, Franz R. and Davis, Thomas M. "Franz Schwarzer, Missouri Zither Maker," Missouri Historical Review, LX (October, 1965), 1-30.
2. Borgford, Robert D. Personal interview, records and photographs. Feb. 17, 1978.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Washington West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 16 17 3 15 8 0 4 2 6 9 14 8 0

B                                          

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                                          

D                                          

E                                          

F                                          

G                                          

H                                          

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 113 and 114 and the strip of ground of uniform width of 26 feet off the west side of Lot 112, Block 19 of the original town (now City) of Washington, as per plat in the Office of Recorder of Deeds.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Claire F. Blackwell, Architectural Historian

March 24, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation

314/751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jefferson City

Missouri 65101

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Geschichte des Washington Turnvereins und der dramatischen Sektion. Washington, Mo.: Pearl Print Co., 1900.
4. Gregory, Ralph. "Historical Site Series," Washington Citizen, March 16, 1964.
5. -----, History of Washington, Missouri to the Civil War: An Outline History. n.p., n.d.
6. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. Chicago, Ill.: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888.
7. Kesselring, Marie. Personal interview, records and photographs. February 1, 1976.
8. Kiel, Herman Gottlieb. The Centennial Biographical Directory of Franklin County, Missouri. Washington, D.C.: By the author, 1925.
9. McClure, Eleanor B. Early History of Washington, Missouri. Washington, Mo.: The Washington Missourian, 1939.
10. Missouri State Museum Records. Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City, Missouri.
11. Roblee, Melvin B. and Osiek, Vera L., ed. Historical Review of Franklin County, Missouri 1818-1968. Union, Mo.: Franklin County Sesqui-centennial Corporation, 1968.
12. Smithsonian Institute Records. Washington, D.C.
13. Standard Atlas of Franklin County, Missouri. Chicago, Ill.: Geo. A. Ogle and Co., 1898.
14. State Historical Society of Missouri Records. Columbia, Mo.
15. van Ravenswaay, Charles. The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: A Survey of a Vanishing Culture. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1977.
16. "Views From the Past, The Photo Album of Franz Schwarzer." Missouri Historical Review. LXX (April, 1976), 316-318.
17. Washington Centennial Commission. Washington, Missouri, Centennial Celebration 1839-1939. Washington, Mo.: The Miller Press, 1939.

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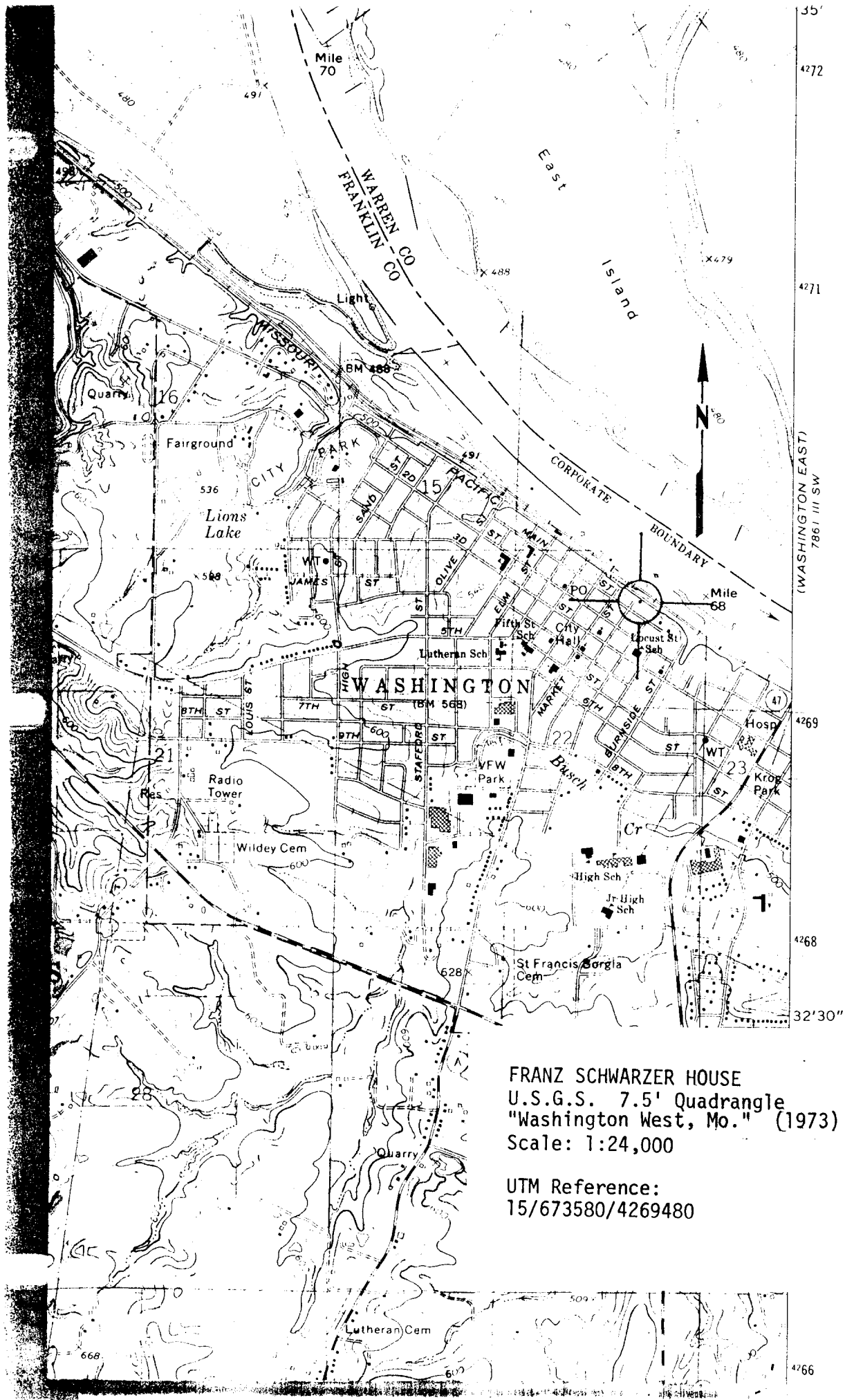
DATE ENTERED

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

18. Washington Missourian. May 5, 1976.
19. Wilke, Stanley. Washington, Yesterday Through Tomorrow. Washington, Mo.:  
The Miller Press, 1975.
20. "Zithers and Pipes." Missouriana, March, 1939, pp. 7-9, 27-29.



FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Washington West, Mo." (1973)  
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM Reference:  
15/673580/4269480

SCHWARZER, FRANZ, HOUSE

COUNTY:

Franklin

LOCATION:

2 Walnut Street

OWNER:

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Diamond

ADDRESS:

2 Walnut St.  
Washington, Mo.

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

April 28, 1978

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

May 18, 1978

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

May 22, 1978

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

July 17, 1978

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTER):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Franz Schwarzer House, Washington, Missouri, is primarily significant as the home of the world-reknowned zither craftsman, Franz Schwarzer (1828-1904). Schwarzer's uncompromising excellence in workmanship, innovative techniques in construction, and unparalleled artistry in design brought him international, as well as local acclaim in the field of music. His zither factory was an important part of Washington's post-Civil War industry and economy, and he was himself a respected community leader and a knowledgeable, amateur botanist. The story of Austrian-born Schwarzer well exemplifies the extensive contributions made by old world cultures to Missouri's heritage.

FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#1

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Overall view, looking southeast.



FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#2

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc. : Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View looking southeast, showing brick and  
clapboarded sections.





FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#3

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View looking east, showing clapboarded  
section.



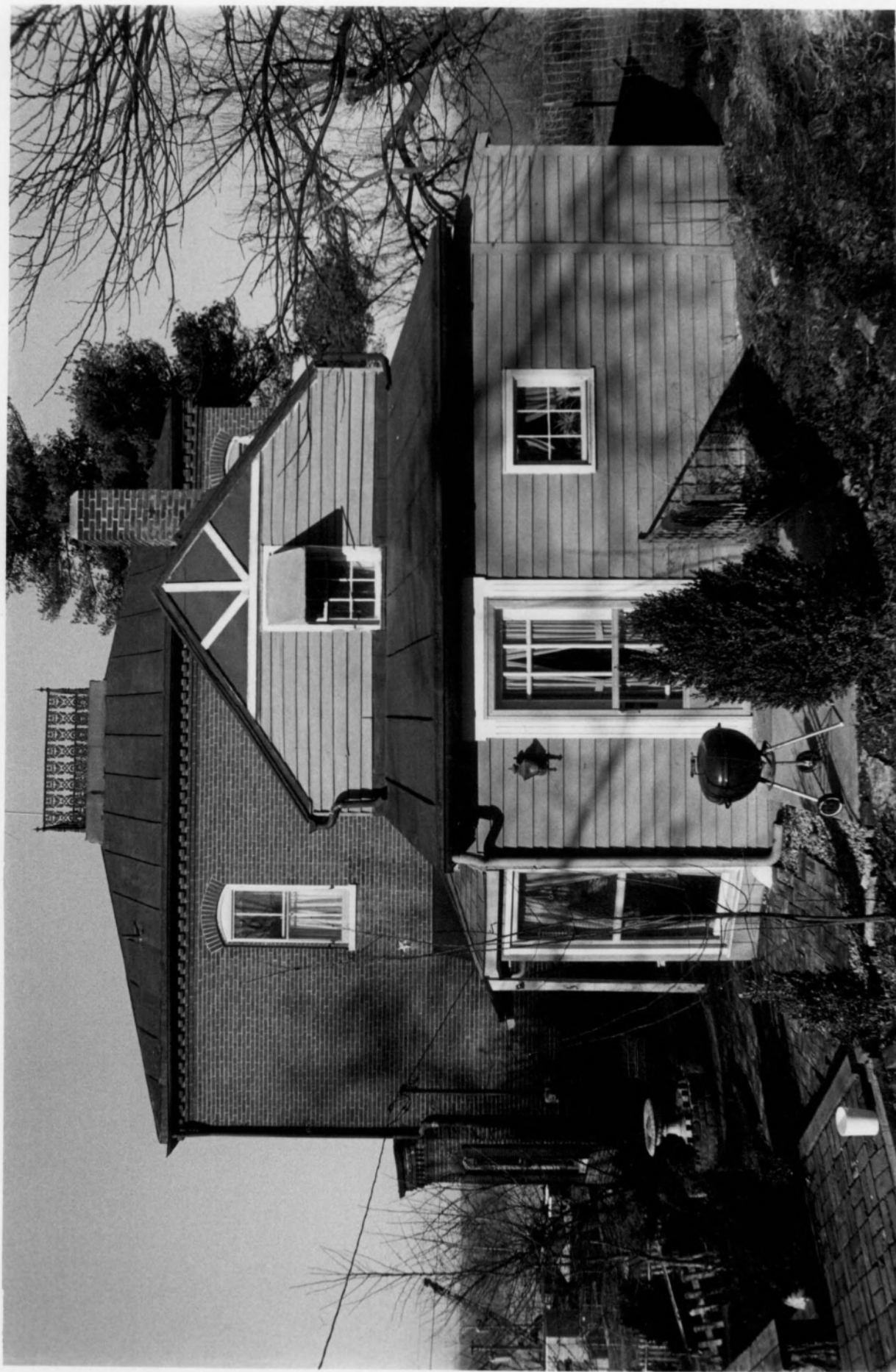
FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#4

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102  
View looking northeast, toward the  
Missouri River.





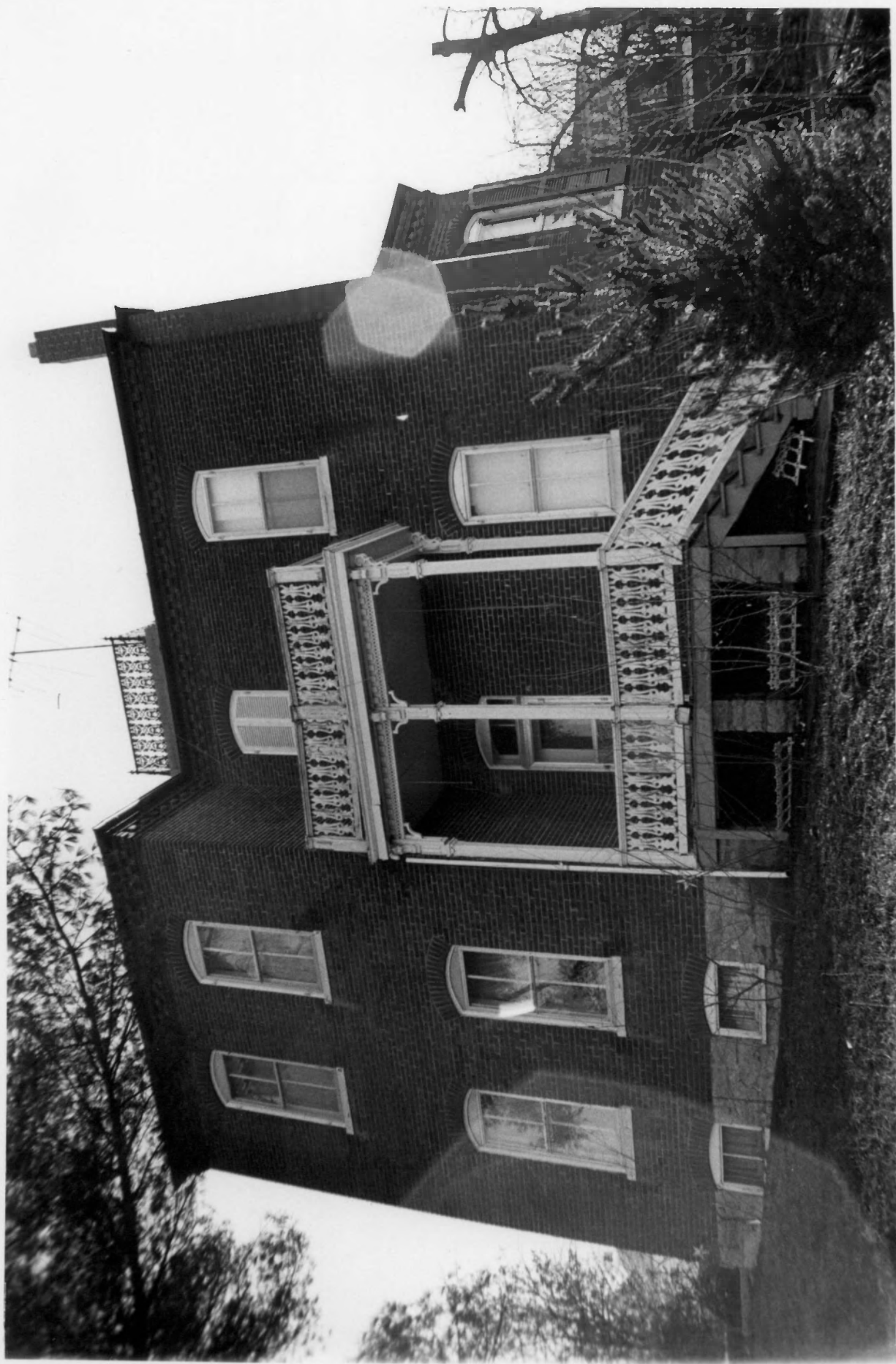
FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#5

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri  
65102.

View looking southwest.



FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

#6

Photographer: Claire F. Blackwell  
27 March, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Detail of northeast porch, view from  
northwest.





*Franz Schwarzer home in Franklin County*

#7

FRANZ SCHWARZER HOUSE  
Washington, Missouri

Photographer: unknown, 1950's  
Neg. Loc.: State Historical Society of  
Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65201

Historic photograph. View looking east,  
showing part of clapboarded section  
converted into a garage.

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THIS PHOTOGRAPH. CREDIT: STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

